

REMARKS

These Remarks are responsive to the Office Action mailed April 1, 2004 ("Office Action"). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections of claims 1-11 and 13 for at least the following reasons.

STATUS OF THE APPLICATION

Claims 1-11 and 13 are pending in the application.

SPECIFICATION OBJECTIONS

The Office Action states that the specification is objected to because of an informality. Specifically, the Office Action states that the specification, at page 6, lines 16-21, makes no indication as to what "A" denotes. The Office Action suggests that if Applicants meant to indicate that "A" is "TA", then to please indicate so with an amendment. Accordingly, Applicants have amended the specification to correct the typographical error reciting "A" and replace "A" with the correct recitation of "TA".

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the objections to the specification are overcome.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Office Action states that claim 6 is rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Specifically, the Office Action states that claim 6 allegedly contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. In particular, the Office Action alleges that the relations for a ternary diagram in claim 6 are not expressed in such a way that one skilled in the art would

understand the recited expressions (*i.e.*, $10\% \leq TPA^* \leq 50\%$; $55\% \leq TE^* \leq 85\%$; $1\% \leq TA^* \leq 25\%$).

Applicants note that the symbol “[“ is a typographical error that was mistakenly substituted for the symbol “≤” utilized in the specification of the priority French application. Accordingly, upon entry of the above claim amendments, claim 6 has been amended to correctly recite “ $10\% \leq TPA^* \leq 50\%$; $55\% \leq TE^* \leq 85\%$; $1\% \leq TA^* \leq 25\%$ ”.

The Office Action states that there is allegedly no support for the recitation of “A” as a variable in the first three equations. Upon entry of the above claim amendments, Applicants have amended claim 6 to correct this typographical error and correctly recite “TA” instead of “A”.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 6, under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is overcome.

The Office Action states that claim 2 is rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. In particular, the Office Action alleges that “said molar volume” in claim 2 is indefinite, as claim 1 recites two different molar volumes. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 2 to recite “said TE molar volume”.

The Office Action states that claim 6 is rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. In particular, the Office Action alleges that the term “A” used in the first three equations of claim 6 is indefinite. As discussed previously, the recitation of “A” is a typographical error. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 6 to correctly recite “TA” instead of “A”. The Office Action also rejects claim 6 as allegedly reciting mathematical expressions for a ternary diagram that are considered indefinite. As discussed further *infra*, the claim has been amended to recite the symbol “≤” instead of “[“.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of

claims 2 and 6, under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are overcome.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action states that claims 1-5, 7-11, and 13 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,326,881, issued to Hirano et al. ("Hirano").

Applicants respectfully submit that Hirano does not teach and/or disclose the unique combination of elements (a), (b) and (c) recited in the claims of the present invention. For example, imidazole is one of many compounds disclosed by Hirano as a curing accelerator in a thermosetting resin composition together with an unsaturated imide compound of Formula (1) (*see* col. 14, ll. 5-23). As disclosed by Hirano, the unsaturated imide compound of Formula (1) is prepared by a process which implements the non-protonic polar solvent (as cited by the Office Action) as the solvent medium of a precursor (*i.e.*, the unsaturated dicarboxylic acid anhydride of Formula (3); *see* col. 6, ll. 29-34 and 55-60). However, after the reaction preparing the compound of Formula (1), this solvent is removed (*see* col. 8, ll. 37-40). The unsaturated imide compound of Formula (1) is, following the synthesis operations, obtained by filtering the crystals, washing and then drying (*see* col. 9, ll. 38-43).

Further, the ethers disclosed by Hirano are merely cited as examples of solvents capable of adequately dissolving the alicyclic structure-containing unsaturated imide compound of Formula (1) (*see* col. 8, ll. 63-65). This is in addition to the many other solvent classes disclosed at col. 9, ll. 26-37.

Therefore, there are no more polar aprotic solvents or ethers together with the unsaturated imide compound of Formula (1) when a curing accelerator is added to it in order to prepare a thermosetting resin composition. Accordingly, a polar aprotic solvent, an ether and a imidazole are not described in combination by Hirano.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Hirano does not anticipate claims 1-5, 7-11, and 13, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as Hirano does not teach or disclose all

of the limitations and elements of claims 1-5, 7-11, and 13.

CONCLUSION

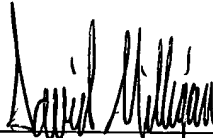
Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request a notice of allowance for the pending claims. Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application in condition for allowance the Examiner is kindly requested and encouraged to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event any other fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,

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